

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SUNSWEET GROWERS, INC., a)	
California Corporation,)	CIV. S-05/618 GEB PAN
)	
Plaintiff,)	<u>STATUS (PRETRIAL</u>
v.)	<u>SCHEDULING) ORDER</u>
RICHARD C. ATTINGER, ROBERT)	
GWALTNEY, LOUISE GWALTNEY,)	
CORRIE LEISEN, JANET LEISEN,)	
ERIK NIELSEN ENTERPRISES, JOHN)	
TAYLOR FERTILIZER, U.S.)	
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MOE)	
WHITCHURCH, ¹)	
)	
Defendants.)	
_____)	

The status (pretrial scheduling) conference scheduled in this case for June 20, 2006, is vacated since the joint status report submitted by the parties obviates the need for the conference. The following order issues based on the parties' joint status report and available dates.

¹ The caption has been amended according to the Dismissal of Doe Defendants portion of this order.

1 DOE DEFENDANTS

2 Although the Joint Status Report indicates that "the
3 identities of any 'Doe' defendants are expected to be identified by
4 December 12, 2002," reason has not been provided as to why Doe
5 defendants have not been identified since the removal of this action;
6 therefore, the Doe defendants are dismissed.

7 SERVICE OF PROCESS

8 No further service is permitted, except with leave of Court,
9 good cause having been shown.

10 JOINDER OF ADDITIONAL PARTIES/AMENDMENT

11 No further joinder of parties or amendments to pleadings is
12 permitted except with leave of Court, good cause having been shown.

13 DISCOVERY

14 (a) All discovery shall be completed by July 18, 2006. In
15 this context, "completed" means that all discovery shall have been
16 conducted so that all depositions have been taken and any disputes
17 relative to discovery shall have been resolved by appropriate orders,
18 if necessary, and, where discovery has been ordered, the order has
19 been complied with or, alternatively, the time allowed for such
20 compliance shall have expired.²

21 (b) Each party shall comply with Federal Rule of Civil
22 Procedure 26(a)(2)'s initial expert witness disclosure and report
23
24

25 ² The parties are advised that the Magistrate Judges in the
26 Eastern District are responsible for resolving discovery disputes. See
27 Local Rule 72-302(c)(1). Accordingly, counsel shall direct all
28 discovery-related matters to the Magistrate Judge assigned to this case.
A party conducting discovery near the discovery "completion" date runs
the risk of losing the opportunity to have a jurist resolve discovery
motions pursuant to the Local Rules.

requirements on or before March 17, 2006, and with the rebuttal expert disclosures authorized under the Rule on or before April 18, 2006.

MOTION HEARING SCHEDULE

The last hearing date for motions shall be September 18, 2006, at 9:00 a.m.³

All purely legal issues are to be resolved by timely pretrial motions. Motions shall be filed in accordance with Local Rule 78-230(b). Opposition papers shall be filed in accordance with Local Rule 78-230(c). Failure to comply with this local rule may be deemed consent to the motion and the Court may dispose of the motion summarily. Brydges v. Lewis, 18 F.3d 651, 652-53 (9th Cir. 1994). Further, failure to timely oppose a summary judgment motion may result in the granting of that motion if the movant shifts the burden to the nonmovant to demonstrate a genuine issue of material fact remains for trial. Cf. Marshall v. Gates, 44 F.3d 722 (9th Cir. 1995). When the last day for filing an opposition brief falls on a legal holiday, the opposition brief shall be filed on the next court day immediately following the legal holiday. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 6(a).

Any party bringing a motion to dismiss, motion for summary judgment or summary adjudication, motion for judgment on the pleadings, or motion to remand shall attach to the motion a copy of the latest complaint (or cross-complaint where applicable).

In determining any motion for summary judgment, the Court will assume that the material facts as claimed in the movant's Statement of Undisputed Facts and adequately supported by evidence are

³ This time deadline does not apply to motions for continuances, temporary restraining orders, emergency applications, or motions under Rule 16(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

1 admitted without controversy except to the extent that such material
2 facts are (1) disputed in the nonmovant's response to the movant's
3 "Statement of Undisputed Facts," and (2) controverted by declaration
4 or other written evidence filed in opposition to the motion. See L.R.
5 56-260(b); Nilsson, Robbin, et al., v. Louisiana Hydrolec, 854 F.2d
6 1538, 1545 (9th Cir. 1988). A party opposing a motion for summary
7 judgment must serve upon all parties and file with the Clerk of Court
8 the evidence upon which the opposing party will rely in opposition to
9 the motion fourteen days before the scheduled hearing date. L.R. 78-
10 230(c), 56-260. Evidence not timely filed by a party will not be
11 considered. See Marshall v. Gates, 44 F.3d at 725.

12 Absent highly unusual circumstances, reconsideration of a
13 motion is appropriate only where:

14 (1) The Court is presented with newly discovered evidence
15 that could not have reasonably been discovered prior to the filing of
16 the party's motion or opposition papers;

17 (2) The Court committed clear error or the initial decision
18 was manifestly unjust; or

19 (3) There is an intervening change in controlling law.
20 A motion for reconsideration based on newly discovered evidence shall
21 set forth, in detail, the reason why said evidence could not have
22 reasonably been discovered prior to the filing of the party's motion
23 or opposition papers. Motions for reconsideration shall comply with
24 Local Rule 78-230(k) in all other respects.

25 The parties are reminded that motions in limine are
26 procedural devices designed to address the admissibility of evidence
27
28

1 and are cautioned that the Court will look with disfavor upon motions⁴
 2 presented at the final pretrial conference or at trial in the guise of
 3 motions in limine. The parties are further cautioned that if any
 4 legal issue which should have been tendered to the Court by proper
 5 pretrial motion requires resolution by the Court after the established
 6 law and motion cut-off date, substantial sanctions may be assessed for
 7 the failure to file the appropriate pretrial motion and/or the Court
 8 may elect not to decide the motion and to treat it as untimely. See
 9 U.S. Dominator, Inc. v. Factory Ship Robert E. Resoff, 768 F.2d 1099,
 10 1104 (9th Cir. 1985) (affirming district court's denial of untimely
 11 motion since "pretrial order controls the subsequent course of action
 12 unless modified by a subsequent order"), rejected on other grounds,
 13 Simpson v. Lear Astronics Corp., 77 F.3d 1170, 1174 (9th Cir. 1995);
 14 Dedge v. Kendrick, 849 F.2d 1398 (11th Cir. 1988) (same).

15 FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

16 The final pretrial conference is set for November 13, 2006,
 17 at 2:30 p.m. The parties are cautioned that the lead attorney who
 18 WILL TRY THE CASE for each party shall attend the final pretrial
 19 conference. In addition, all persons representing themselves and
 20 appearing in propria persona must attend the pretrial conference.

21 The parties shall file a JOINT pretrial statement with the
 22 Court not later than seven (7) days prior to the final pretrial
 23 conference.⁵ The Court uses the parties' joint pretrial statement to

24
 25 ⁴ Such motions include contentions under the collateral estoppel
 or res judicata doctrines.

26
 27 ⁵ The failure of one or more of the parties to participate in
 the preparation of any joint document required to be filed in this case
 does not excuse the other parties from their obligation to timely file
 28 the document in accordance with this Order. In the event a party fails
 (continued...)

1 prepare its final pretrial order. The final pretrial order supersedes
 2 the pleadings and controls the facts and issues which may be presented
 3 at trial. Issues asserted in pleadings which are not preserved for
 4 trial in the final pretrial order cannot be raised at trial. Hotel
 5 Emp., et al. Health Tr. v. Elks Lodge 1450, 827 F.2d 1324, 1329 (9th
 6 Cir. 1987) ("Issues not preserved in the pretrial order are eliminated
 7 from the action.").

8 The following provisions of Local Rule 16-281 shall apply
 9 with respect to the matters to be included in the joint pretrial
 10 statement: (b) (1), (b) (2),⁶ (b) (3), (b) (5), (b) (9), (b) (10),
 11 (b) (11),⁷ (b) (12) to and including (b) (21), and (c).

12 The subject matter in Local Rule 16-281(b) (4), (b) (7), and
 13 (b) (8) shall be combined in a single section titled "Factual, Legal
 14 and/or Equitable Contentions."⁸ In the "Factual, Legal and/or
 15

16 ⁵(...continued)
 17 to participate as ordered, the party timely submitting the document
 18 shall include a declaration explaining why it was unable to obtain the
 cooperation of the other party or parties.

19 ⁶ In this section of the joint pretrial statement the parties
 20 must specify what the judge is expected to decide and what the jury is
 21 expected to decide. For instance, if the judge is expected to make a
 ruling after the jury decides factual disputes, the factual issues to be
 submitted to the jury shall be specified.

22 ⁷ In separate attachments to the joint pretrial statement each
 23 party shall list all witnesses and each exhibit individually that the
 24 party intends to offer at trial. Plaintiff's exhibits shall be listed
 numerically; defendant's exhibits shall be listed alphabetically.

25 ⁸ If there are no legal or equitable contentions, the title
 26 shall reflect only what is at issue. The requirement in (b) (8) is
 27 modified since a party only needs to state sufficient law to show
 28 viability of an issue. But it must be clear whether precise federal or
 state law governs. If state law governs, the state whose law is
 applicable must be specified. Since the governing law is stated in
 conjunction with the elemental facts to establish a pled claim or
 (continued...)

Equitable Contentions" section, the parties shall number or alphabetize each individually-pled cause of action and pled affirmative defense to preserve the issue for trial. **Each pled claim or affirmative defense must be accompanied by the elemental facts supporting it and the relief sought, if applicable. For example: Plaintiff claims that Defendant violated her Fourth Amendment right to be free from excessive force by applying the handcuffs too tight and seeks general damages.** If the parties disagree about the inclusion of an issue in this section, that issue shall be followed by the title "Controversy", under which the parties' respective positions on the issue shall be stated. The parties are warned that the "Factual, Legal and/or Equitable Contentions" section of the joint pretrial statement could be used to specify the issues preserved for trial in the pretrial order, and that order could issue without the court holding the scheduled final pretrial conference. See Mizwicki v. Helwig, 196 F.3d 828, 833 (7th Cir. 1999) ("There is no requirement that the court hold a pretrial conference."). **Thus, if an issue is omitted from this section of the joint pretrial statement, it is waived, even if it appears in the pleadings.** Valley Ranch Dev. Co. v. F.D.I.C., 960 F.2d 550, 554 (5th Cir. 1992) (indicating that an issue omitted from the pretrial order is waived, even if it appeared in the pleading); cf. Raney v. District of Columbia, 892 F. Supp. 283 (D.D.C. 1995) (refusing to modify the pretrial order to allow assertion of a previously-pled statute of limitations defense); Olympia Co., Inc. v. Celotex Corp., 597 F. Supp. 285, 289 (E.D. La. 1984) (indicating that

⁸(...continued)
 defense, there is no need for a separate statement of disputed factual issues required by (b)(4). The relief sought, referenced in (b)(7), shall follow the issue or issues giving rise to that relief.

1 "[a]ny factual contention, legal contention, any claim for relief or
2 defense in whole or in part, or affirmative matter not set forth in
3 [the pretrial statement] shall be deemed . . . withdrawn,
4 notwithstanding the contentions of any pleadings or other papers
5 previously filed [in the action]").

6 The parties are further warned that "since [the] process [of
7 having them delineate trial issues] is designed to promote efficiency
8 and conserve judicial resources, 'there is no reason to require that
9 the elimination of non-trialworthy claims await a formal motion for
10 summary judgment.'" Berkovitz v. Home Box Office, Inc., 89 F.3d 24,
11 29 (1st Cir. 1996). "If the pretrial [statement] discloses that no
12 material facts are in dispute and that the undisputed facts entitle
13 one of the parties to judgment as a matter of law," the Court may
14 summarily dispose of the case or issue. Portsmouth Square v.
15 Shareholders Protective Comm., 770 F.2d 866, 868-69 (9th Cir. 1985)
16 (emphasis added).

17 If possible, at the time of filing the joint Pretrial
18 Statement counsel shall also email it in a format compatible with
19 WordPerfect to: geborders@caed.uscourts.gov.

20 TRIAL SETTING

21 Trial is set for February 6, 2007, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

22 MISCELLANEOUS

23 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P.
24 16(b), the Status (pretrial scheduling) Order **shall not be modified**
25 **except by leave of Court upon a showing of good cause. Counsel are**
26 **cautioned that a mere stipulation by itself to change dates does not**
27 **constitute good cause.**
28

OBJECTIONS TO STATUS (PRETRIAL SCHEDULING) ORDER

Any party may, within ten (10) court days after the date this Order is filed, file and serve written objections to any part of this Order. Any objection must specify the requested correction, addition, and/or deletion. Any response to an objection must be filed and served within ten (10) court days after the objection is filed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: June 9, 2005

/s/ Garland E. Burrell, Jr.
GARLAND E. BURRELL, JR.
United States District Judge